

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re: Application of:	David Zahner	<b>Patent Application</b>
Serial No.:	09/916,603	
Filing Date:	7/27/2001	
Art Unit:	3765	
Examiner:	James G. Smith	
For:	Apparatus for hanging articles of clothing	
Attorney Docket No.:	4042.026.200	

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P.O. Box 1450  
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**Amendments to the Specification**

In the Specification:

Please replace the first paragraph of page 1 of the application with the following amended paragraph:

**Related Applications**

The present application ~~claims the priority of:~~ is a continuation of U.S. Nonprovisional Application Serial No. 09/738,545 filed December 15, 2000 ("the '545 application") (abandoned), which claims the priority of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/171,081 filed 12/15/99 ("the '081 application"), U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/203,873 filed May 12, 2000 ("the '873 application"), U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/143,853 filed July 15, 1999 ("the '853

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application), U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/150,876, filed August 26, 1999 ("the '876 application"), ~~U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/203,873 filed 5/12/2000 ("the 873 application")~~, and the U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/217,747 filed July 12, 2000 ("the Suspended Bath Products Application" or "the 747 application"), ~~and~~.

The present application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Nonprovisional Application Serial No. 09/617,402 filed July 17, 2000 ("the External Slits application" or the "402 application") (patented as U.S. Patent No. 6,494,248 B1 on December 17, 2002).

The '545 application (U.S. Nonprovisional Application Serial No. 09/738,545 filed December 15, 2000) is also a continuation-in-part of ~~and the~~ U.S. Nonprovisional Application Serial No. 09/738,555 filed December 15, 2000 entitled "Towel Products" ~~filed concurrently herewith (abandoned).~~

The priority of all of the above applications is claimed, and All ~~all~~ of those prior applications are fully incorporated into this application by reference.

Please replace the third paragraph on page 13 with the following amended paragraph:

In an alternate or additional embodiment of the invention, as shown in Figure 23, an open ring 530 is provided in the material 532 of the clothing for attachment of the clothing to the rod or bar 534. In accordance with this embodiment, ring 530 is an open ring which is provided with rounded edges 536. A space is provided between the edges of the open ring, forming a mouth or gap 538 which acts as the external slit. Preferably, the gap is approximately 1/16" to 1/8" in diameter, although larger or smaller gaps can be used, depending on the application, rod size, and

shape. Further preferably, the upper edge of ring 530 is tangent to the upper edge 539 of suspended material 532.

Please replace the third paragraph on page 14 with the following amended paragraph:

The ring or fastener of the invention can be of any desired shape. For example, it can be rounded, oval (e.g. an ellipse which is elongated along the vertical or horizontal axis), or so forth. An elongated oval shaped rod can facilitate attachment of the ring to a square or rectangular rod. The ring 530 can include an open mouth (i.e. a gap between the slits), as in the embodiment of Figure 23, or, alternatively, it can have a closed mouth, such as shown in Figure 6. The ring can also have the edge of the ring tangent to the edge of the clothing, as shown in Figure 5 2. As an alternative to the use of an oval, which is preferred, the elongated ring can be any non-circular shape, including, for example, a rectangle or quadrilateral. Moreover, the external and/or internal edges of the ring need not be rounded although they are preferably so.

Please replace the last paragraph on page 17 (which extends to page 18) with the following amended paragraph:

As an alternative to a straight external slit, a curved external slit 232 can be provided as shown in Figure 20. In one embodiment, curved slit 232 has a first vertical component 232a, a second approximately horizontal component 232b, and a radial component 232c. Radial component 232c of slit 232 exits the inner circumference of the ring at a location which is offset to the side, rather than exiting the ring at the top of the inner circumference of ring 220 (i.e. rather than

exiting directly below vertical component 232a). In this embodiment, fingers 224a and 224b are pulled to the left and right, respectively to open up the ring 220 and insert the ring over a rod. Curved slit ~~233~~ 232, which intersects the inner circumference of the ring at an offset position rather than at the top of the ring, provides an advantage to the user in that the slit ~~233~~ 232 will not sit directly on top of the rod while the clothing is hanging or is in use. This eliminates the problem of the slit riding on the rod when the clothing is pulled. Instead, a smooth surface of the ring rides on the rod, easing movement of the clothing on the rod. The various features of the embodiment of Figure 20 can also be provided directly to the clothing without using a ring but by using a rigid or semirigid backing positioned on the clothing (e.g. at a corner) as shown in Figure 21.

Please replace the last paragraph on page 18 (which extends to page 19) with the following amended paragraph:

Instead of a vertical external slit 233a which is central, an offset slit 233b can be provided to any of the embodiments of the invention, as shown, for example, by the dotted line in Figure ~~21~~ 22. Offset slit 233b is a slit which intersects the inner circle 231 in a secant-like or tangent-like fashion. In other words, offset slit 233b is off center, such that the line it makes (if extended) would not intersect the center of inner circle 231. This offset slit allows the ring to glide more smoothly along the rod since the slit does not sit directly on top of the rod.

Please replace the third paragraph on page 19 with the following amended paragraph:

In further embodiments of the invention, a ring 250 is provided, as shown in Figure ~~26~~ 12.

Ring 250 includes an internal sliding member 254 which can be pushed or pulled using knob 256. Sliding member 254 slides into and out of internal channel 258 to close and open gap 252. In an alternative embodiment, shown in Figure 11, a pivoting member 264 is provided, having a pin 265 which inserts into an opening 266. Pivoting member 264 can be rotated to open or close gap 262. Alternatively, the gap can be closed by straps which utilize snaps, velcro or other attachment devices.

Please replace the first paragraph on page 23 with the following amended paragraph:

A further embodiment of the rotating ring is shown in Figure 33. Preferably, the ring 740 is mounted in an outer frame 742, with the pivots 748 extending from that frame to the ring 740. In the initial position, the ring is flat in the frame 742 (with the frame 742 being flush with the product) as shown in Figure 34. The ring can rotate on the pivots 748 to a position where it is perpendicular with the frame 742 and the surface of the product as shown in Figure 35. This embodiment allows the position of the clothing to be rotated while it is hanging on the rod, to ease drying of the hands.